

Amendment to Claims:

1. (currently amended) An article suspension device for infants, comprising:

encircling means for surrounding an object;

an adjustable elastic loop; ~~and~~

a single length of cord having a first end secured to said elastic loop and a second end secured to said encircling means; and

said cord includes a cover extending between said first end and said second end of said cord in outer surrounding relation to said cord, said cover being stretchable a predetermined distance between a retracted position and an extended position in response to stretching of said cord.

2. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said encircling means comprises a free end portion releasably secured to a base portion of said encircling means.

3. (currently amended) A device according to claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said free end portion is secured to said base portion with a snap fastener.

4. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said encircling means comprises a carabiner.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein said ~~encircling means~~ elastic loop is formed as a continuation of said cord.

6. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said elastic loop includes means for adjusting a length of said loop and said cord.

7. (currently amended) A device according to claim 6 wherein said adjusting means is defined by a body member having a first material-receiving slot and a second material-receiving slot, said first material-receiving slot extending along a parallel ~~axes~~ axis with said second material receiving slot.

8. (original) A device according to claim 7 wherein said adjusting means further includes a slidable gate normally urged to a closed position by a spring member.

9. (original) A device according to claim 8 wherein a combination of said slidable gate in an open position and said spring form an unobstructed passage through which said length of cord may pass.

10. (original) A device according to claim 1 wherein said cord includes elastic.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An article suspension device for infants, comprising:

an adjustable elongated single elastic cord having means at a first end for encircling a stationary object;

an elastic loop at a second end of said cord including a slidable ~~clamping~~ member affixed to one end of said elastic loop and including means for releasably engaging said cord whereby to adjustably encircle an article inserted in said loop; and

a ~~sleeve~~ flexible cover member extending between said first end and said second end in outer surrounding relation to said cord, said cover being stretchable a predetermined length between a retracted position and an extended position thereby limiting the extent of stretch of said cord.

13. (currently amended) A device according to claim 12 wherein said encircling means includes a securing member for detachably securing said cord to a stationary object.

14. (currently amended) A device according to claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein said securing member includes a releasable handle.

15. (currently amended) A device according to claim ~~14~~ 12 wherein said means for releasably engaging said cord includes a clamping member for securely engaging a length of said cord.

16. (currently amended) A device according to claim 12 wherein said means for releasably engaging said cord includes a

body member with  ~~dual~~ a single material-receiving openings opening at a first end and a slidable gate.

17. (currently amended) A method of suspending a toy or other object for an infant, comprising the steps of:

attaching a first end of a length of cord to an adjustable loop;

forming a continuous loop at an opposite end of said cord;

enclosing said length of cord from said first end to said opposite end with a cover;

positioning an object within said adjustable loop; and encircling said loop around a fixed or stationary said object;

adjusting said length of cord; and

securing said continuous loop to a highchair thereby allowing said object to be suspended from said highchair and retrieved by an infant by pulling on said cover and enclosed cord.

~~suspending said object from a highchair; and~~

~~retrieving said object by pulling on said length of cord.~~

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~said length of cord includes~~ the steps further include limiting the extent of stretch of said enclosed cord in response to stretching of said enclosed cord to a predetermined distance between a retracted position and an extended position ~~a sleeve member extending between said first end and said second end in outer~~

~~surrounding relation to said cord.~~

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~said adjustable loop includes means for slidably~~ the steps further include engaging said cord with sliding means whereby to adjustably encircle an object inserted in said loop.

Kindly add the following claim:

20. A device according to claim 12 wherein said cover member includes a fabric sleeve.